

CYNTHIA ANN PARKER

BY J. M. EMERSON, BRUSHY CREEK, TEXAS.

Brushy Creek, Texas, April 12, 1909.
To the Herald,
Palestine, Texas.

I have been requested by a reader of the Herald to write something in regard to Cynthia Ann Parker, who died and was buried in the Foster graveyard, near where Fosterville was, and as I am sure that many persons in this county would like to have the story of the capture of Cynthia Ann and John Parker, as well as what happened in the capture of the Parker Fort in Limestone county, Texas, in 1836, I will try as best I can to give a connected story of the affair up to the recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker by General S. P. Ross in 1860. I have gleaned this story from various histories, but the greater part is from the account published in a history of the occurrence by James T. DeShield, entitled "Cynthia Ann Parker."

Among the many tragedies that have occurred in Texas, the massacre at Parker's fort holds a conspicuous place. Nothing that has ever happened exhibits savage duplicity and cruelty more plainly than the massacre of helpless women and children. In 1833 a small colony was organized in the state of Illinois for the purpose of forming a settlement in Texas. After their arrival in the country they selected for a place of residence a beautiful region on the Navasota, a small tributary of the Brazos. To secure themselves against the various tribes of roving savages was the first thing to be attended to, and, having chosen a commanding eminence adjacent to a large timbered bottom of the Navasota, about three miles from the town of Springfield formerly stood, and about two miles from the present town of Groesbeck, they by their joint labor soon had a fortification erected. It consisted of a stockade of split cedar timbers planted deep in the ground, extending fifteen feet above the surface, touching each other and confined at the top by traverse timbers which rendered them almost as immovable as a solid wall. At convenient distances there were port holes, through which, in case of an emergency, fire arms could be used. The entire fort covered nearly an acre of ground. There were also attached to the stockade two log cabins at diagonal corners, constituting a part of the enclosure. They were really block houses, the greater portion of each standing outside of the main stockade, the upper story jutting out over the lower, with openings in the floor allowing perpendicular shooting from above. There were also port holes out in the upper story so as to admit of horizontal shooting when necessary. This enabled the inmates to rake every side of the stockade. The fort was situated near a fine spring of water. As soon as it was completed the little colony moved into it. Parker's colony at this time consisted of only some eight or nine families, viz: Elder John Parker, the patriarch of the colony, and his wife; his son, James W. Parker, wife, four single children, and his daughter, Mrs. Rachael Plummer, her husband L. M. S. Plummer, and an infant son fifteen months old; Mrs. Sarah Nixon, another daughter, and her husband, L. D. Nixon; Silas M. Parker, another son of Elder John Parker, his wife and four children; Benjamin F. Parker, an unmarried son of Elder John; Mrs. Nixon, Sr., mother of Mrs. Jas. W. Parker; Mrs. Elizabeth Kellogg, daughter of Mrs. Nixon; Mrs. Duty; Samuel M. Frost, wife and two children; E. G. Dwight, wife and two children; in all thirty-four persons. Besides these above mentioned, old man Lunn, Dave Faulkenberry and his son, Evans, Silas Bates and Abraham Anglin, had erected cabins a mile or two distant from the fort, where they resided. These families were

truly the advance guard of civilization in this part of our frontier, Fort Houston, in Anderson county, being the nearest protection except their own trusty rifles. Here the struggling colonists remained, engaged in the avocation of rural life, tilling the soil, hunting buffaloes, bear, deer, turkey and smaller game, which served abundantly to supply their larder at all times with fresh meat, in the enjoyment of a life of Arcadian simplicity, virtue and contentment, until the latter part of the year 1835, when the Indians and Mexicans forced the little band of compatriots to abandon their homes and flee with many others before the invading army of Mexico. On arriving at the Trinity river they were compelled to halt in consequence of an overflow. Before they could cross the swollen stream the sudden and unexpected news reached them that Santa Anna and his vandal hordes had been confronted and defeated at San Jacinto, that sanguinary engagement which gave birth to the new sovereignty of Texas, and that Texas was free from Mexican tyranny. On receipt of this news the fleeing settlers were overjoyed, and at once returned to their abandoned homes. The Parker colonists now retraced their steps, first going to Fort Houston, where they remained a few days in order to procure supplies, after which they made their way back to Fort Parker to look after their stock and prepare for a crop. These hardy sons of toil spent their nights in the fort, repairing to their farms early each morning. The strict discipline was maintained for awhile, but as time wore on and no hostile demonstrations had been made by the Indians they became somewhat careless and restive under confinement. However, it was absolutely necessary that they should cultivate their farms to insure sustenance for their families. They usually went to work in a body, with their farming implement in one hand and their weapons of defense in the other. Some of them built cabins on their farms, hoping that the government would give them protection, or that sufficient numbers of other colonists would soon move in to render them secure from the attacks of Indians. On the 18th day of May, 1836, all slept

at the fort, James W. Parker, Nixon and Plummer repairing to their field, a mile distant on the Navasota, early the next morning, little thinking of the great calamity that was soon to befall them. They had scarcely left when several hundred Indians (accounts of the number of Indians vary from 300 to 700, probably there were about 500) Comanches and Kiowas, made their appearance on an eminence within 300 yards of the fort. Those who remained in the fort were not prepared for an attack, so careless had they become in their fancied security. The Indians hoisted a white flag as a token of their friendly intentions, and upon the exhibition of the white flag Mr. Benjamin Parker went out to have a talk with them. The Indians artfully feigned the treacherous semblance of friendship, pretending they were looking for a suitable camping place, and inquired as to the exact locality of a water hole in the immediate vicinity, at the same time asking for a beef, as they said they were very hungry. Not daring to refuse the request of such a formidable body of savages, Mr. Benjamin F. Parker told them they should have what they wanted. Returning to the fort he stated to the inmates that in his opinion, the Indians were hostile and intended to fight, but added he would go back to them and he would try to avert it. His brother Silas remonstrated, but he persisted in going, and was immediately surrounded and killed; whereupon the whole force, their savage instincts aroused by the sight of blood, charged upon the fort, uttering the most terrific and unearthly yells that ever greeted the ears of mortals. The sickening and bloody tragedy was soon enacted. Brave Silas Parker fell outside the fort while he was gallantly fighting to save Mrs. Plummer. Mrs. Plummer made a desperate resistance, but was soon overpowered, knocked down with a hoe and made captive. Samuel M. Frost and his son, Robert, met their fate while heroically defending the women and children inside the stockade. Old Granny Parker was stabbed and left for dead. Elder John Parker, wife and Mrs. Kellogg attempted to make their escape, and in this effort had gone about three-fourths of a mile, when they were overtaken and driven back to the fort, where the old gentleman was stripped, murdered, scalped and horribly mutilated. Mrs. Parker was stripped, speared and left for dead, but feigning death, escaped, as will be seen further on. Mrs. Kellogg was spared as a captive. The result summed up is as follows: Killed—Elder John Parker, age 79; Silas M. and Benjamin F. Parker, Samuel M. and his son, Robert Frost. Wounded,

dangerously—Mrs. John Parker, old Granny Parker, and Mrs. Duty. Captured—Mrs. Rachel Plummer, daughter of James W. Parker, and her son, James Pratt Plummer, two years of age; Mrs. Elizabeth Kellogg; Cynthia Ann Parker, nine years old, and her little brother, John Parker, age six, children of Silas M. Parker. The remainder made their escape, as we shall now narrate: When the attack on the fort first commenced, Mrs. Sarah Nixon made her escape and hastened to the field to advise her father, husband and Plummer of what had occurred. On her arrival Plummer hurried off on horseback to inform Faulkenberry, Bates and Anglin, who were at work in the fields. Parker and Nixon started to the fort, but the former met his family on the way and carried them some four or five miles down the Navasota, secreting them in the bottom. Nixon, though unarmed, continued on toward the fort, and met Mrs. Lucy, wife of Silas Parker (killed), with her four children, just as they were interrupted by a small party of mounted and foot Indians. They compelled the mother to lift her daughter, Cynthia Ann, and her little son, John, behind two of the mounted warriors. The foot Indians then took Mrs. Parker, her two youngest children and Nixon on toward the fort. As they were about to kill Nixon, David Faulkenberry appeared with a rifle and caused them to fall back. Nixon, after his narrow escape from death, seemed very much excited and immediately went in search of his wife, soon falling in with Dwight, his own and Frost's families. Dwight and family soon overtook J. W. Parker and went with him to his hiding place in the bottom. Faulkenberry, thus left with Mrs. Parker and her two children, bade her follow him. With the infant in her arms and leading the other child, she obeyed. Seeing them leave the fort, the Indians made several attempts to intercept them, but were held in check by the brave man's rifle. Several mounted warriors, armed with bows and arrow, strung and drawn, and with terrific yells, would charge them, but as Faulkenberry would present his gun they would halt, throw up their shields, sight about, wheel and retire to a safe distance. This continued for some distance, until they had passed through a prairie of some forty or fifty acres. Just as they were entering the woods the Indians made a furious charge, when one warrior, more daring than the others, dashed up so near that Mrs. Parker's faithful dog seized his horse by the nose, whereupon horse and rider were hurled, alighting on their backs in a ravine. At this moment Silas Bates, Abram Anglin and Evan Faulkenberry, armed, and Plummer, unarmed, came up, causing the Indians to retire, after which the party made their way unmolested. As they were passing through the field where the men were at work in the morning, Plummer as if aroused from a dream, demanded to know what had become of his wife and child. Armed only with a butcher knife he left the party in search of his loved ones, and was seen no more for six days. The Faulkenberrys, Lunn and Mrs. Parker secreted themselves in a small creek bottom, some distance from the first party, each unconscious of the other's whereabouts. At twilight Abram Anglin and Evan Faulkenberry started back to the fort to succor the wounded and those who might have escaped. On their way, and just as they were passing Faulkenberry's cabin, Anglin saw his first and only ghost. He says: It was dressed in white with long white hair streaming down its back. I admit that I was more scared at this moment than when the Indians were yelling and charging on us. Seeing me hesitate my ghost now beckoned me to come on. Approaching the object it proved to be old Granny Parker, whom the Indians had wounded and stripped, with the exception of her under garments. She had made her way to the house from the fort by crawling the entire distance. I took her some bed clothing and carried her some rods from the house, made her a bed, covered her up, and left her until we should return from the fort. On arriving at the fort we could not see a single human being alive, or hear a human sound. But the dogs were barking, the cattle lowing, horses neighing and the hogs squealing, making a hideous

and strange melody of sounds. Mrs. Parker had told me where she had left some silver—\$160.50. This I found under a hickory bush by moonlight. Finding no one at the fort, we returned to where I had laid Granny Parker. On taking her up behind me, we made our way back to the hiding place in the bottom, where we found Nixon, whom we had not seen since his cowardly flight, at the time he was rescued by Faulkenberry from the Indians. In the book published by James W. Parker he states that Nixon liberated Mrs. Parker from the Indians and rescued old Granny Parker. Mr. Anglin in his account contradicts or rather corrects this statement. He says: I positively assert that this is a mistake, and I am willing to be qualified to the statement I here make, and can prove the same by Silas Bates, now living near Groesbeck. The next morning Bates, Anglin and E. Faulkenberry went back to the fort to get provisions and horses, and look after the dead. On reaching the fort they found five or six horses, a few saddles and some meat, bacon and honey. Fearing an attack from the Indians who might still be lurking around, they left without burying the dead. Returning to their comrades in the bottom they all concealed themselves until they set out for Fort Houston. Fort Houston, an asylum, on this, as on many other occasions, stood on what has been for many years a farm of a wise statesman, a chivalrous soldier and true patriot, John H. Reagan, two miles south of Palestine. After wandering around and traveling for six days and nights, during which they suffered much from hunger and thirst, their clothing torn to shreds, their bodies lacerated with briars and thorns, the women and children with unshod and bleeding feet, the party, with James W. Parker, reached Fort Houston.

(To be Continued.)

OIL TRUST PAYS BACK TAXES.

Receiver Dorchester Will Pay About \$60,000 to the State.

Austin, Texas, April 13.—The state has practically decided to accept the taxes due by the Waters Pierce Oil company on gross receipts for the past six quarters, aggregating about \$60,000, the matter having been adjusted.

The money is expected to be paid into the treasury department this afternoon.

SAN ANTONIO SPRING CARNIVAL

And Battle of Blowers, April 19 to 24, 1909.

Reduced rates will be authorized covering entire season and Popular Excursion Rates for Special Day. For further particulars see Agent I. & G. N. R. K. 3-30-209

Card of Thanks.

I wish to thank through the columns of the Herald my many friends for the assistance rendered me during the Chronicle's \$5,000.00 contest. I shall always have a tender feeling toward you for your kindness to me in helping me to win the second prize of the district. Wishing you much success in all your undertakings, I beg to remain,

Miss Ada Cuson.

District No. 3.

New Livery Stable.

I have opened a first-class livery stable at 608 Main street, and I want you to give me a trial. I have first-class, gentle horses, good, new bugles and good drivers. Everything new and in best condition. Horses boarded and kept right. Phone No. 684 and I'll be glad to serve you at any time, day or night.

W. H. Gilliam.

13-12 Phone 684; 608 Main St.

Married.

Palestine, Texas, April 13, 1909. At the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Hutcherson, six miles northwest of Palestine, Sunday, April 12, 1909, at 3 o'clock p. m., Mr. P. C. Weldon and Miss Ada Hutcherson were united in married, the writer officiating. We wish for them the best possible in life.

J. V. Kelley.

Mr. F. G. Fritts, Oneonta, N. Y., writes: "My little girl was greatly benefited by taking Foley's Orino Laxative, and I think it is the best remedy for constipation and liver trouble." Foley's Orino Laxative is best for women and children, as it is mild, pleasant and effective, and is a splendid spring medicine, as it cleanses the system and clears the complexion. Bratton Drug Co.

Capudine For "That Headache."

Out last night? Headache and nervous this morning? Hick's Capudine just the thing to fit you for business. Clears the head—braces the nerves. Try it. At drug stores.

Watches, clocks and jewelry repaired by J. A. H. Thompson, 308 Church street. 2-31-1m

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Installation of Fans and Motors

Here is our proposition: We will install all fans and motors sold by us free of all charge to the purchaser. More than this, we will sell you any fan you select at actual cost. We are not trying to make any profit on the sale of the fans. Come to the office and let us show you the styles in fans and explain the cost of running one, and then let us install one in your OFFICE, STORE or HOME.

Palestine Electric & Ice Co.

Office, Main Street, First Door East of Postoffice.

TELEPHONE NO. 4.

AT THE LYRIC TONIGHT.

Minstrel Comedy Co. Will Be Special Feature Tonight.

Manager's notice: Tonight the cozy little play house will present a big double program. The famous Minstrel Comedy company, composed of seven home boys, will be the feature of the show, presenting the following program:

Opening chorus.
Monologue—Bert Mingus.
"Down Our Way"—John Cohen.
"Mormon Coon"—Will Stinnett.
Bass solo—Geo. Cooke.
"Stung Again"—Chas. Russ.
Song—Tom Welch.
"Jungle Town"—Jack LaBarge.
Pictures.

Quartette—W. Stinnett, J. LaBarge, John Cohen, Geo. Cooke.

Two thousand feet of new motion pictures and illustrated song, "The Longest Way Around is the Sweetest Way Home." This is a refined entertainment, full of mirth and clean comedy. If you see this entertainment tonight you will forget all your troubles. Manager Pickerill says it will be a sure cure for the blues.

LIABILITY ACT HAS BEEN SIGNED

Governor Places Signature on Recently Enacted Laws.

Austin, Texas, April 13.—Governor Campbell today signed the bill passed during the extra session, amending the anti-trust law, the main feature being the increasing of maximum penalties to \$1,500 per day, instead of \$50, as under the present law. He also signed the employers' liability bill, which conforms to the federal action in this matter. The bill carries an emergency clause and goes into immediate effect.

Eminent Authorities Say that out door exercise is needed by the American people. That's all very well, but how can people with rheumatism follow that advice? The answer is very simple—use Ballard's Snow Liniment and the rheumatism will go; leaving you as spry as a colt. Gives quick and permanent relief from rheumatism, neuralgia, lameness and all pains.
Sold by Bratton Drug Co.

"CUT PRICES."

Now is the time to have your pictures framed. One-third off on all remnant patterns. 75c oval frames for 10c.

ED KINGSBURY,
The New Silliman Building.

Read This.

Jacksonville, Texas.—This is to certify that my wife was cured of kidney and bladder trouble in 1895 by the use of one bottle of Hall's Texas Wonder, and I can cheerfully recommend it to others suffering in same manner.
A. M. Duke.
Sold by J. R. Hearne & Co.

Try a Gas Heater for these cool mornings.

ARE YOU SURE

That the ice cream you buy is strictly PURE? Do you know that the makers' hands were clean, flies excluded from the factory, and freezers and other utensils kept in Sanitary Condition? Why take any chance where your health is concerned? Why not MAKE AND FREEZE YOUR OWN ICE CREAM in 10 MINUTES FOR 1c A PLATE with

Jell-O ICE CREAM Powder

It is so easy. Simply stir contents of one 13c. package into a quart of milk and freeze, without cooking, heating or the addition of anything else. This makes two quarts of ice cream, clean, pure and wholesome. A good ice cream freezer can be bought for a dollar or two which will last for years, and will soon save its cost. 2 packages JELL-O ICE CREAM Powder for 25c.
Flavors: Chocolate, Vanilla, Strawberry, Lemon and Unflavored.
Sold by all good grocers.
The General Pure Food Co., Le Roy, N. Y.

BRUSHY CREEK.

(Herald Special.)

Brushy Creek, Texas, April 11.—The recent cold spells have had rather a retarding effect on young corn and garden truck. The fruit crop will be very short, the fruit trees, that is peach trees, do not look right by some means. The leaves come out on them slowly, and from the bottom. Pear trees look all right, but there is no fruit on them.

There is considerable sickness now in and around Poyner, and some all around. There is no particular type of sickness; some complain of one thing and some of another. Dr. Scarborough has rather a large territory to practice over now, and if sickness should prevail to any great extent, he would be unable to cover the territory that he is now called to go over.

Farming is progressing very satisfactory. Corn is generally looking very well, and most every farmer has some cotton planted, but will plant more later on; but it is the opinion of the writer that May first will be plenty early to plant cotton.

The schools in this part of the county are about all closed. Frankston school, however, is not out yet. The teachers will now begin to plan out the summer normal that they will attend.

Well, if those parties who were wanting me to get up an article for the Herald in regard to Cynthia Ann Parker will only wait long enough they will see it, but I want to tell you that the delay has not been on my part, but the Herald people say they have been crowded so badly with work they have not had the time to get to it, but we shall expect it soon.

Miss Laura Emerson, who taught school near Palestine, and Miss Alma Emerson, who taught in Navarro county, are both at home now, their schools being out.

The many friends of Dr. Shoemaker will be glad to know that he and his family are now pleasantly located at Axtell, between Corsicana and Waco. The doctor has a fine practice there.

A rumor was current in this part of the country that Mrs. Hendrickson, who was formerly Miss Mary Pearson, was dead. She taught music at Brushy Creek for several years and then went to Frankston, where she taught for some time, and was there happily married to Mr. Hendrickson, and they now live at Rochelle, Texas.

This has been a record-breaking year for disastrous fires in Texas, and this part of the county has not altogether escaped. Mr. Bud Elrod, who lives a few miles south of Brushy Creek, lost his house and the contents by fire some few weeks ago, and a little later Mr. Peter Adams lost his dwelling and the contents. The last named gentleman lives near Montalba.

Well, we are told that all things have an end and I have just been wondering if this was really true of the Thirty-first legislature. They may not know it, but we all believe just about like Thomas does, and we thank God they can neither investigate nor expell us. The people are paying for a great many foolish things these days.

A little baby girl recently came to bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elce Evans, near Brushy Creek.

Mrs. Charley Elrod, who has been sick for a long time, has improved so much that she has returned to her home. She had been at Dr. Scarborough's for some time.

As ever,

Fagin.

Foley's Honey and Tar is a safeguard against serious results from spring colds, which inflame the lungs and develop into pneumonia. Avoid counterfeits by insisting upon having the genuine Foley's Honey and Tar, which contains no harmful drugs. Bratton Drug Co.

Try a Gas Heater for these cool mornings.



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is not found every day; neither are values in fine Woollens that equal ours. Such a combination in the finest of Woollens put together by men who have mastered the tailoring art is a credit to our establishment. Call and see our two thousand special patterns.

\$15.00 UP.

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A Positive Cure For BILIOUSNESS, CONSTIPATION, DYSPEPSIA, MALARIA, CHILLS AND FEVER AND ALL LIVER COMPLAINTS.

Mr. Cuskey Evans, Registered Pharmacist, Jewett, Texas, writes: "I recommended Herbine for a child that had chills and a general debilitated system, and who had tried nearly everything except Herbine. It quickly cured the child and the family now keeps Herbine all the time. They recommend it to others and from that have built up a good trade on it. I believe it is the best substitute for calomel I know of."

Price 50 Cents per Bottle.

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